



Everything was “Irie” at the Joe Laviest Ballpark on Saturday night

Fans of reggae know that when things are “irie” it means that nothing could be better, and for the thousands that came to see reggae legend Lucky Dube in concert in San Nicolas, the evening was unquestionably, “irie.” Lucky Dube hails from South Africa, but is considered one of the most beloved reggae performers worldwide. He and his band of ten traveled thirty-two hours via New York and Miami to appear on stage in Aruba on Saturday, November 11, and then returned the following Monday.

Lucky and his band stepped off the plane from Miami and onto the stage of the Joe Laviest Ballpark without missing a beat, and if they were exhausted from their journey, the energetic and dynamic performance the group delivered did not reveal it.

Lucky Dube has issued twenty-one albums, and the concert was a parade of classic favorites and selections from his newest release, “Respect.” Considered by erudite critics as one of the greatest reggae performers ever, he has won twenty awards for his music, both in South Africa and internationally.

Saturday’s concert was arranged by Carlos Jacobs, an ardent fan who had brought Lucky Dube to Aruba eight years earlier. Opening for Lucky were local bands Time Bandits and The Creators, with Carlos on the drums, who were also joined on stage by Mighty Whitee, a popular Carnival music performer. They had the audience well warmed up and ready for the headliner when he finally made it to the stage after midnight. By that time the stadium was packed with lovers of the music, all dressed in their red, green and gold, and looking mighty irie.

Lucky and his chorus, also garbed in the red, green and gold of reggae kept the audience enthralled until the wee hours of the morning as he delivered the dynamic performance for which he is well known. Dreadlocks flying, he sang out his message of respect, love and peace to a loving and peaceful audience.

Along with organizers Carlos Jacobs and Rene Laclé, who also played keyboards for The Creators, Arubans can thank the Key Largo Casino and Heineken for bringing this superstar of reggae to the island for a truly memorable experience.